# MINUTES BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

#### **Board** present

Mayor Ann Schneider Vice Mayor Tim Harris Alderman Jeff Gragg Alderman James Hubbard Alderman Emily Green Alderman Lisa Arnold

#### Staff present

City Manager Ryan Martin Assistant City Manager Candice Tillman City Recorder Lisa Crockett City Attorney Christy Bartee City Clerk Melissa Brown

#### **Board Absent**

Alderman Bobby Trotter

1.0 Call to order

6:00 p.m.

- 1.1 Pledge of allegiance to the American flag.
- 1.2 Moment of silence.

Mayor Schneider thanked everyone for being at the meeting and thanked everyone who serves the community in different ways.

Vice Mayor Harris moved to move items 2.15 and 2.16 to the top of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed unanimously.

- 2.15 Alderman Arnold moved to approve Resolution 23-26. A resolution honoring Louis W. Jamison for his life of service to the City of Springfield. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gragg and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.16 Alderman Gragg moved to approve Resolution 23-27. A resolution honoring Billy Mack Townsend for his life of service to the City of Springfield. The motion was seconded by Alderman Arnold and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 1.3 Alderman Gragg moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the board of mayor and aldermen held August 15, 2023. The motion was seconded by Alderman Arnold and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 1.4 Public comment period.

### 1.5 Public Hearing:

- 1. Ordinance 23-23, an ordinance amending Ordinance 19-02 by amending Title 8, Chapter 2 of the Springfield Municipal Code entitled "Beer".
  - County Commissioner for District 11 Gina Head Hieber of 4940 Hwy 49 W, Springfield spoke in opposition of the reduced distance requirement.
- 2. Ordinance 23-25, an ordinance rescinding capacity fees for water and wastewater connections.
- 3. Ordinance 23-26, an ordinance amending the City of Springfield Conditions of Service Manual by adding the policy entitled "Installation of Fire Hydrant Assembly".
- 4. Ordinance 23-27, an ordinance rescinding topographical map copy fees.
- 5. Ordinance 23-28, an ordinance amending the City of Springfield Conditions of Service Manual by amending the portion of the policies regarding water and wastewater tap fees.
- 6. Ordinance 23-29, an ordinance rezoning a property on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Commercial Limited Services (CLS) to High Density Residential District (R7).
- 7. Ordinance 23-30, an ordinance amending Section 8 of Ordinance 23-18 and setting a new property tax rate for fiscal year 2024.

# 2.0 Legislative

- 2.1 Alderman Green moved to approve Ordinance 23-23 on second and final reading. An ordinance amending Ordinance 19-02 by amending Title 8, Chapter 2 of the Springfield Municipal Code entitled "Beer". The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 5-1 electronic vote. Ayes: Schneider, Harris, Hubbard, Arnold and Green Nay: Gragg
- 2.2 Alderman Green moved to approve Ordinance 23-25 on second and final reading. An ordinance rescinding capacity fees for water and wastewater connections. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.3 Alderman Green moved to approve Ordinance 23-26 on second and final reading. An ordinance amending the City of Springfield Conditions of Service Manual by adding the policy entitled "Installation of Fire Hydrant Assembly." The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.4 Alderman Green moved to approve Ordinance 23-27 on second and final reading. An ordinance rescinding topographical map copy fees. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.

- 2.5 Alderman Green moved to approve Ordinance 23-28 on second and final reading. An ordinance amending the City of Springfield Conditions of Service Manual by amending the portion of the policies regarding water and wastewater tap fees. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.6 Alderman Hubbard moved to approve Ordinance 23-29 on second and final reading. An ordinance rezoning a property on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Commercial Limited Services (CLS) to High Density Residential District (R7). The motion was seconded by Alderman Green and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.7 Alderman Green moved to approve Ordinance 23-30 on second and final reading. An ordinance amending Section 8 of Ordinance 23-18 and setting a new property tax rate for fiscal year 2024. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.8 Alderman Green moved to approve Ordinance 23-31 on first reading. An ordinance amending the fiscal year 2024 annual budget for the City of Springfield by amending certain General Fund and Utility Fund operating budgets. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.9 Alderman Green moved to approve Ordinance 23-32 on first reading. An ordinance establishing a schedule of fees for towing and wrecker service. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.10 Alderman Hubbard moved to approve Ordinance 23-34 on first reading. An ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Springfield Zoning Ordinance to include Specific Plan Districts. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gragg and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.11 Vice Mayor Harris moved to approve Ordinance 23-35 on first reading. An ordinance rezoning two (2) parcels on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West from Commercial General District (CG) to Core Commercial District (CC). The motion was seconded by Alderman Gragg and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.12 Vice Mayor Harris moved to approve Ordinance 23-36 on first reading. An ordinance rezoning a property located at 511 South Mabel Street from High Density Residential (R7) to Medical Professional Office District (MPO). The motion was seconded by Alderman Green and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.13 Alderman Gragg moved to approve Resolution 23-24. A resolution adopting a new income limit for the property tax freeze program. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 2.14 Alderman Gragg moved to approve Resolution 23-25 on first reading. A resolution annexing property owned by Reyes Construction, Inc. and Brenda

Swann located on Dorris Street between Poplar Avenue and Pitt Avenue. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.

## 3.0 Administrative

3.1 Alderman Hubbard moved to approve the monthly TVA wholesale fuel cost adjustment of \$0.02235 per kilowatt hour effective October 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harris and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.

The resulting retail rate is 1.28 % lower than last month and will result in a \$0.98 to \$1.53 decrease in the average residential electric bill.

3.2 Alderman Green moved to approve the adjustment of monthly gas rates of the Springfield Gas Department. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.

The Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) decreased to \$0.4012 or 2.4% from the previous month. The actual decrease in rates across the board is 1.4%.

- 3.3 Vice Mayor Harris moved to approve an annual contract with (RTA) Regional Transportation Authority of Middle TN for bus service between Springfield and Nashville. The motion was seconded by Alderman Green and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.
- 3.4 Alderman Green moved to approve reappointments to the Industrial Development Board. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hubbard and Passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.

Ward 1: Greg Bell- Nominated by Alderman Hubbard.

Ward 5: Dr. Tom Onstott- Nominated by Alderman Arnold.

Terms Expire: September 30, 2029

Mayor Schneider thanked everyone who serves on these boards.

- 3.5 Presentation by Police Chief Jason Head on the city's official crime statistics. No action taken.
- 3.6 Alderman Gragg moved to approve a tourism matching grant in the amount of \$30,000 from the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development (TDTD). The motion was seconded by Alderman Arnold and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.

#### 4.0 Consent

Vice Mayor Harris moved to approve the entire consent docket. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gragg and passed by a 6-0 electronic vote.

- 4.1 Electric Department's request for approval to purchase fourteen (14) SEL-351S Schweitzer Protection Systems from Power Connection a sole source purchase in the amount of \$65,702.70.
- 4.2 Electric Department's request for approval to purchase one (1) Doosan G55C-7DF, Kubota dual fuel with disc brakes 12,000lb tow motor forklift in the amount of \$64,411.01 from Forklift Systems of Nashville, TN utilizing the Sourcewell contract #091520-DIV. Budget: \$75,000
- 4.3 Electric Department's request for approval to award the bid for pad mount distribution transformers in the amount of \$152,974.80 from MVA Power, Inc. of Quebec, CA.
- 4.4 Electric Department's request for approval to purchase PUPI Fiberglass Crossarms in the amount of \$38,325 from Border States Electric of Nashville, TN.
- 4.5 Electric Department's request for approval to purchase galvanized steel poles in the amount of \$392,550 from Stuart C. Irby of LaVergne, TN.

Mayor Schneider reminded everyone that the Willow Oak Center will host Art in the Park at Travis Price Park this weekend and the Robertson County Fair is happening this weekend as well.

# 5.0 <u>City Manager's Report</u>

During City Manager Ryan Martin's report, he reported that:

- After a recent situation with mutual aid agreements, staff will bring a new blanket mutual aid approval or individual mutual aid agreements with specific agencies for the board to consider in the coming months.
- TVA has implemented a 4% increase effective October 1, 2023. This increase averages out to approximately \$3 per customer. TVA is also discontinuing the pandemic credits, which total around \$400,000. We have engaged a consultant to review the city's current cash flow situation and current utility rates. We are happy to report that we have some of the lowest rates in Tennessee. We anticipate proposing a \$2 increase to the fixed fee portion of our electric rates in the near future. This would be a \$2 per customer per month local rate adjustment

- TVA has announced they are investing \$15 billion dollars in generation. Last winter TVA lost a plant which caused blackouts locally. We were fortunate to not have blackouts because we had already reduced our load because the industrial plants were shut down for the holiday. Because TVA is struggling with generation, we have been told by electric industry experts to also expect blackouts this winter if we have extreme weather. Because we purchase electricity from TVA, we are locked into an exclusive contract and are not allowed to purchase electricity elsewhere and will be subject to these blackouts should they occur.
- Local option sales tax is already \$100,000 ahead of budget this year.
- He asked Terry Martin, Parks and Recreation Director, to inform the board of the grant award to the parks department.
  - O Mr. Martin reported that they received a \$500,000 Local Parks and Recreation Fund Grant (LPRF), which will go towards the improvements at Garner Street Park. He explained that Playground 2000 had been removed, however it will be replaced with a new playground. New restroom facilities and pickleball courts are also planned. He thanked the Kiwanis Club and Shine Pediatrics for the information board they added at Martin Luther King Park. This board will help us to serve those in our population with disabilities.
- Lastly, he highlighted some important numbers in the police criminal statistics report. He highlighted the police department's 71% clearance rate and stated that he is grateful for where we are at this time with our crime rate.

Mayor Schneider mentioned what a great community we live in, and the importance of shopping local.

6.0 Adjournment

Mayor Schneider adjourned the meeting.

Ann Schneider, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa H. Crockett, City Recorder